

1 1. In a device having one or more applications, a method for compiling
2 electronic program guide (EPG) data from multiple EPG data sources, the method
3 comprising the steps of:

4 receiving EPG data at one or more loader modules at the device, the loader
5 modules causing the EPG data from each of the multiple EPG data sources to be
6 compatible with the device and the one or more applications;

7 collecting, by a writer module at the device, the EPG data received by the one
8 or more loader modules;

9 scaling, by the writer module, the EPG data according to factors provided by
10 a user; and

11 writing, by the writer module, at least a portion of the scaled EPG data to a
12 storage associated with the device.

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14 2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the writer module implements
15 conflict resolution for the one or more loader modules.

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17 3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the one or more loader modules
18 follow a priority scheme.

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20 4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of collecting the EPG data
21 further comprises the step of formatting the EPG data.

1 5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of scaling the EPG data
2 further comprises the step of scaling the EPG data according to at least one of the factors of:
3 time; language; richness; channels, and services.

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5 6. A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the step of writing the EPG data
6 further comprises the step of enforcing at least one of the factors of: time; language;
7 richness; channels, and services.

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9 7. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of writing the EPG data
10 further comprises the step of limiting the amount of the EPG data that may be placed in the
11 storage.

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13 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of writing the EPG data
14 further comprises the step of removing expired EPG data from the storage.

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16 9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of writing the EPG data
17 further comprises the step of keeping the last EPG data stored to a particular portion of the
18 storage.

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20 10. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the storage is a database.

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22 11. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of accessing, for
23 the one or more applications, the EPG data in the storage by a controller.

12. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of recording EPG data with digital recordings of programming associated with the EPG data.

WORKMAN, NYDEGGER & SEELEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
1000 EAGLE GATE TOWER
60 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

13. In a device capable of storing electronic program guide (EPG) data from multiple EPG data sources, a method for collecting the EPG data from the multiple EPG data sources, the method comprising the steps of:

installing an EPG loader module for each of the multiple EPG data sources at the device;

receiving, at each EPG loader, the EPG data provided by each of the multiple EPG data sources;

writing, by a writer module, at least a portion of the EPG data received by the EPG loader modules to a storage associated with the device; and

processing the EPG data received from the multiple EPG data sources according to factors provided by a user.

14. A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising the step of implementing, by the writer module, conflict resolution for the EPG data collected by the EPG loader modules

15. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of receiving further comprises the step of reformatting the EPG data.

16. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of processing further comprises the step of scaling the EPG data.

1 17. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the step of processing further
2 comprises the step of scaling the EPG data according to at least one of the factors of: time;
3 richness; language; channel, and services.

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5 18. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of processing further
6 comprises the step of enforcing at least one of the factors of: time; richness; language;
7 channels, and services.

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9 19. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein each of the EPG loader modules is
10 capable of being added to the device and removed from the device.

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12 20. A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising the step of adding a new
13 loader module capable of receiving EPG data from a new EPG data source.

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15 21. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of writing further
16 comprises the step of limiting, by the writer module, the amount of the EPG data that may
17 be placed in the storage.

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19 22. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of writing further
20 comprises the step of removing expired EPG data from the storage.

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22 23. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the step of writing further
23 comprises the step of storing the last EPG data stored to a particular portion of the storage.

1 24. A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the storage is a database.

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3 25. A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising the step of accessing, by

4 a controller module, the EPG data stored in the storage for one or more applications.

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6 26. A method as defined in claim 13, further comprising the step of recording the

7 EPG data with digital recordings of the programming represented by the EPG data.

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27. In a device capable of receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data from one or more EPG data sources including a digital recording, a method of accessing the EPG data, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the EPG data received from the one or more EPG data sources in a database accessible by the device;

reading the EPG data in the database by a control module operating at the device; and

transferring the EPG data, by the control module, from the database to one or more applications operating at the device.

28. A method as defined in claim 27 wherein the step of storing further comprises the steps of:

receiving the EPG data from the one or more EPG data sources by one or more loader modules operating at the device;

collecting the EPG data from the one or more loader modules by a writer module operating at the device;

formatting the EPG data by the writer module:

scaling the EPG data by the writer module; and

writing the EPG data to the database by the writer module.

29. A method as defined in claim 27 wherein the writer module is an application program interface capable of interfacing with the loader modules

1 30. A method as defined in claim 27 wherein the step of reading the EPG data
2 further comprises the step of accessing the EPG data by the control module.

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4 31. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein the control module is an
5 application program interface capable of interfacing with the one or more applications.

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7 32. A method as defined in claim 27, wherein an instance of the control module
8 is created for each of the one or more applications receiving EPG data from the database.

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10 33. A method as defined in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
11 receiving a notification that the EPG data has changed; and
12 updating the accessed EPG data by the one or more applications.

1 34. In a device capable of receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data from
2 multiple EPG data sources, a method for configuring the EPG data, the method comprising
3 the steps of:

4 selecting one or more of the multiple EPG data sources from which EPG data
5 will be collected;

6 deselecting one or more of the multiple EPG data sources from which EPG
7 data will not be collected;

8 receiving EPG data from the one or more selected EPG data sources at one or
9 more loader modules corresponding to the one or more selected EPG data sources
10 operating at the device;

11 collecting the EPG data from the one or more loader modules; and

12 scaling the EPG data collected by the one or more loader modules at a writer
13 module operating at the device.

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15 35. A method as defined in claim 34, further comprising the step of writing at
16 least a portion of the scaled EPG data to a database associated with the device by the writer
17 module.

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19 36. A method as defined in claim 34 further comprising the step of formatting at
20 least a portion of the EPG data.

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22 37. A method as defined in claim 34, wherein the step of scaling further
23 comprises at least one of the steps of:

24 scaling the EPG data by time;

1 scaling the EPG data by language;
2 scaling the EPG data by richness;
3 scaling the EPG data by channel; and
4 scaling the EPG data by service.

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6 38. A method as defined in claim 37, wherein the step of scaling comprises the
7 step of scaling the EPG data by time, which includes the step of identifying one or more
8 time periods.

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10 39. A method as defined in claim 37, wherein the step of scaling comprises the
11 step of scaling the EPG data by richness, which includes the step of identifying the amount
12 of EPG data to be stored for at least one of the categories of titles; descriptions; attributes;
13 properties; reviews; ratings; channel; service, length; and other categories defined by a user.

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15 40. A method as defined in claim 37, wherein the step scaling comprises the step
16 of scaling the EPG data by channel, which includes at least one of the steps of:

17 identifying at least one channel for inclusion in the EPG data;
18 identifying at least one channel as a favorite channel; and
19 identifying at least one channel for exclusion from the EPG data.

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2 41 A computer program product for implementing, in a device capable of storing
3 electronic program guide (EPG) data, a method for compiling EPG data from one or more
4 EPG data sources, the computer program product comprising:

5 a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for
6 implementing the method, wherein the computer executable instructions comprise:

7 one or more loader modules for receiving EPG data from the one or
8 more EPG data sources; and

9 a writer module for:

10 collecting the EPG data received by the one or more loader
11 modules; and

12 storing the collected EPG data at the device.

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14 42. A computer program product as defined in claim 41, wherein the computer
15 executable instructions comprise program code means for:

16 formatting the collected EPG data; and

17 scaling the collected EPG data by at least one of the factors of: time,
18 language, richness and channel.

43. A computer program product for implementing, in a device capable of receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data from one or more EPG data sources, a method for retrieving EPG data from a database associated with the device, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer executable instructions comprise:

a writer module storing the EPG data received from the one or more EPG data sources in the database; and

a control module for:

reading the EPG data stored in the database; and

transferring the EPG data from the database to one or more applications operating at the device.

44. A computer program product as in claim 43, wherein:

the computer executable instructions further comprise one or more loader modules for receiving the EPG data from the one or more EPG data sources; and

the writer module further operates to:

collect the EPG data from the one or more loader modules;

format the EPG data; and

scale the EPG data according to at least one of the factors of: time,

language, richness, and channel.

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